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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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FAR EAST

2. Japan plans no specific moves for Orbit relations:

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Japanese foreign minister Shigemitsu told Ambassador Allison on 27 December that his government had no specific plans for establishing diplomatic relations with the Communist bloc and would definitely consult the United States before considering any such arrangements with Communist China.

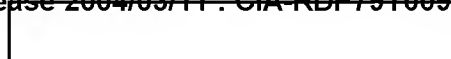
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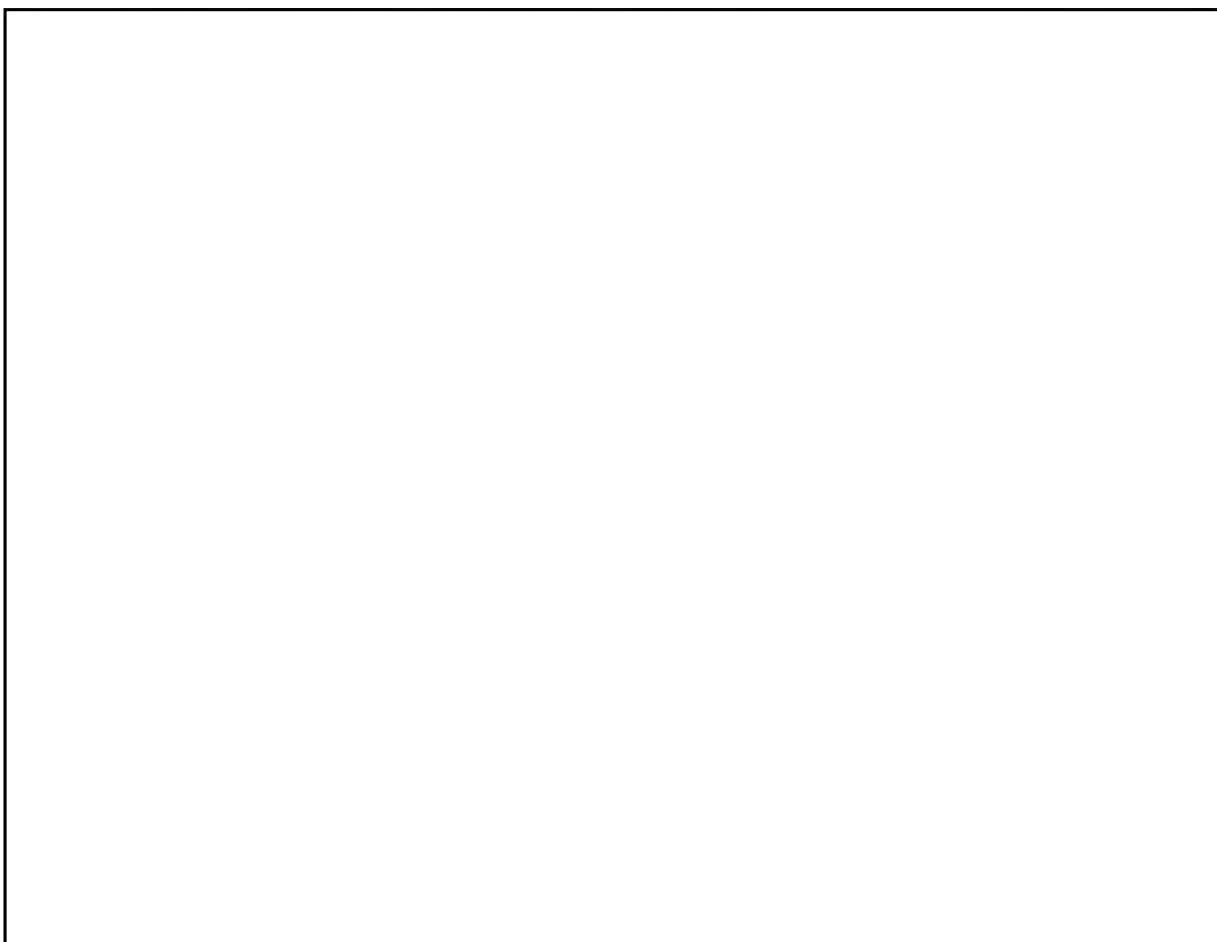


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Shigemitsu asserted that much anti-American sentiment is based on the belief that the United States is preventing Japan from having normal trade and diplomatic contacts with "an important Asian neighbor." He said his government's action in easing restrictions on travel and trade with the Orbit would permit the Japanese to see for themselves the difficulties involved in dealing with the Chinese Communists and at the same time would remove one of the basic causes of anti-Americanism.

Comment: Dealing with the Communists may dispel some popular Japanese illusions that Communist trade will provide a panacea for Japan's economic ills.



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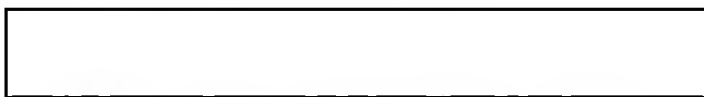
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SOUTH ASIA

5. Afghan prime minister Daud rumored about to resign:

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Afghan prime minister Daud is to resign and to be replaced by his brother, Foreign Minister Naim. The embassy discounts the reports but states the possibility cannot be ruled out since Shah Wali Khan, the king's uncle, has warned the king of the dangers of Daud's present policy of accepting Soviet economic aid.

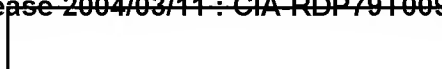
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Comment: Twice before Daud has been sent abroad or temporarily retired from politics when his actions became embarrassing to the ruling Afghan oligarchy.

The king and the elder members of the royal family may now feel that Daud's dealings with the USSR and his outspoken support of Pushtoonistan will hinder foreign policy planning with respect to the United States and Pakistan.

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EASTERN EUROPE

6. Rakosi appears to remain leading Hungarian Communist:

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The acclaim accorded First Secretary Matyas Rakosi at the tenth anniversary celebration of the Hungarian parliament on 21 December testifies to his continuing status as the "strong man" in the Hungarian party hierarchy. According to the American minister, who was present at the ceremony, Rakosi was greeted by the parliamentary deputies with stormy applause which made the reception accorded Premier Nagy and other speakers appear "exceedingly small."

Comment: Rakosi's failure to appear in public in October and November, during which time a party caucus re-emphasized support for the conciliatory new course policies and criticized "left-wing" opposition to this program, appeared at the time to represent a diminution in his power in the Hungarian Workers Party. His activities since his reappearance on 29 November, however, suggest that he remains "first among equals" in the collective leadership of the Hungarian regime.

Rakosi's resumption of public activity probably does not signify any change in the regime's present policies. He has publicly supported the new course and called for an end to all opposition to it.